AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Amend the following paragraph(s):

[0012] -- Advantageously, the energy storage device can include a compression spring assembly with an adjustable spring pretension and/or a disk spring assembly which secures the spindle rod of the spindle drive against rotation relative to the drive element in the form of a spindle nut coupled to the spindle rod and thus secures the spindle nut against rotation relative to the stationary housing.--.

[0026] --The difference between the spindle drive 12 depicted in FIG. 3 and the first embodiment depicted in FIG. 2 resides mainly in a differently configured energy storage device. In the following description, parts corresponding with those in FIG. 2 will be identified, where appropriate, by corresponding reference numerals increased by "100". The spindle drive 12 of FIG. 3 is implemented as a disk spring assembly 23, which not only helps boosting the power of the electric motor 117, 118, but also non-rotatably couples the spindle rod 115 with the stator 117 on the housing side of housing 113 due to the torsional stiffness of the disk spring assembly 23. The pretension of the spring can be adjusted by an adjusting nut 24, allowing the amplification effect of the disk spring assembly 23 to be individually adapted to the power requirements of the respective spindle drive 12. Moreover, a releasable locking device, which

is controlled by impulses and is disposed between the rotor 118 and the receiving element 114, is used instead of the friction brake which can control the braking power. In the engaged state, the releasable locking device transfers the spring force exerted on to the spindle rod 115 to the receiving element 114 by way of the spindle nut 120 and the rotor 118. The releasable locking device is formed as a switchable coupling or as a one-way lock which is effective in the feed direction of the spindle rod 115, but is freewheeling in the return stroke direction. As mentioned above, the spindle drive 12 is particularly suited for controlling the stroke of the plasticizing unit 2 between the injection and return stroke positions. In other aspects, the construction and operation of the spindle drive 12 of FIG. 3 corresponds essentially to that of the first embodiment depicted in FIG. 2, with the exception of the counterpressure control.--.

[0027] -- It will be understood that the mechanical control mechanism 21 [[and 25, respectively,]] can also be arranged between the spindle rod 15, 115 and a housing section, or between the spindle rod 15, 115, respectively, and the corresponding spindle nut 20, 120.--

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE, AND LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS WITH PROPER IDENTIFIERS

1. (Currently amended) An actuating drive for a plasticizing unit of an injection molding machine, comprising:

a spindle drive having a stationary housing section and an electric motor with a drive element, said spindle drive moving between a first end position corresponding to a feed phase of the spindle drive and a second end position corresponding to a return stroke phase of the spindle drive ~~the spindle drive further including a control mechanism arranged between the drive element and the housing section~~; and

an energy storage device coupled with the spindle drive for force transmission therebetween, said energy storage device receiving energy from the spindle drive in the return stroke phase and transferring energy to the spindle drive in the feed phase;

~~wherein the spindle drive loads the energy storage device in a return stroke phase of the spindle drive and unloads the energy storage device in a feed phase of the spindle drive, said unloading of the energy storage device~~ said transferred energy boosting power of the electric motor, ~~and~~

wherein the spindle drive ~~further including~~ includes a control mechanism arranged between the drive element and the housing section and engaging with the drive element ~~wherein the control mechanism operates in parallel with the energy storage device~~ to actively ~~modify an~~

~~effective actuating~~ control the force transmitted between [[of]] the energy storage device and the spindle drive depending on a stroke position of the spindle drive.

2. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the control mechanism includes an adjustable force coupling between the drive element and the housing section.

3. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 2, wherein the adjustable force coupling comprises a brake which is activated depending on a stroke excursion, or a selectively releasable locking device.

4. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 3, wherein the locking device is implemented as a coupling.

5. (Original) The actuating drive of claim 3, wherein the locking device is implemented as a selectively releasable one-way locking device.

6. (Currently amended) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the spindle drive controls a stroke motion between a plasticizing cylinder and a plasticizing screw, and wherein the control mechanism comprises a friction brake that selectively locks the energy storage device at ~~a stroke~~ the first end position corresponding to ~~and, at the beginning of~~ a filling phase of the

plasticizing cylinder~~, impedes a return stroke force of the plasticizing screw and opposes said loading of the energy storage device~~.

7. (Currently amended) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the spindle drive controls a stroke of the plasticizing unit relative to a mold closing unit, the control mechanism further comprising a selectively releasable locking device capable of automatically locking the drive element~~, which is biased by the energy storage device,~~ relative to the stationary housing in at least one [[stroke]] of the first and second end positions ~~position of the plasticizing unit~~.

8. (New) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the energy storage device includes a compression spring assembly with an adjustable spring pretension.

9. (New) The actuating drive of claim 1, wherein the spindle drive includes a spindle rod coupled to the drive element, said energy storage device including a disk spring assembly which secures the spindle rod against rotation.